(b) and (c) Mr. Hurd reiterated the UK's 3-point formula on J&K, which includes a call for the cessation of external support to violence in J&K. He further agreed that ensuring a threshold level of security was essential to holding elections in J&K and in this context the UK would continue to urge Pakistan to desist from support for militancy.

Setting up of an Economic Security Council at the U.N.

2460. SHRI HIPHEI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to certain suggestions for setting up of an Economic Security Council at the United Nations;

(b) whether these suggestions also include restructuring of various organisations to make them more representative;

(c) whether these suggestions were made in a Conference organised by the Parliamentarian's Forum for Human Development;

(d) whether Government propose to take up these suggestions with other foreign countries and at International forums thereafter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government is aware of suggestions^ made by some independent experts/prominent personalities for setting up an Economic Security Council at the UN. Some other suggestions for restructuring of various organisations have also been made. Goverment is of the view that any restructuring of UN bodies should be aimed at making them more representative and democratic.

(c) Government has seen reports of suggestions made by the Parliamentarian's Forum for Human Development on this subject.

(d) and (e) The suggestions for the setting up of an Economic Security Council do not presently constitute a formal proposal before the United Nations. The member States of UN have not so far engaged in any substantive discussions on this proposal for evolving a consensus.

March by Tibetan Refugees

2461. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA: SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tibetan refugees living in India had decided to undertake a long march from New Delhi to Lhasa on March 10, 1995; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for their march and whether Government are willing to take interestinterfere or to mediate to resolve the issues involved in their undertaking the said march?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government have seen press reports to the effect that organisers of the "Peace March" have dropped their plans to march to Lhasa. Government's view is that such issues are best settled by dialogue between the parties concerned.

South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement

2462. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN:- Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the prospects of launching the South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA) in the SAARC Summit to be held in New Delhi;

(b) whether there has been any change in Pakistan's agreeing to hold the preparatory meeting in Islamabad to finalise formalities for launching the SAPTA; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) was agreed upon on 1.1th April, 1993 at the Seventh SAARC Summit held in Dhaka.

(b) and (c) Since then, negotiations have been going on among member countries to give effect to SAPTA by finalising tariff concessions. The latest round of negotiations have just concluded in Islamabad of which the results have yet to be assessed.

Modifications in the draft declaration for World Social Summit

2463. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have secured modifications in regard to eighteen points in the Draft Declaration for World Social Summit, March 6—12, 1995, Copenhagen;

(b) if so, what exactly arc these eighteen points; and

(c) what are the other points in respect of which Government of India sought modifications, but failed?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) During the Summit and in the Preparatory Process leading to it, India emphasised the following issues:

(i) The Centrality of the people and their empowerment, through inter-alia, guaranteeing of certain rights such as the rights to food, work, shelter, education, health and information; and democratic participative local self-governance as a mechanism to achieve this end.

(ii) The need to eradicate poverty, which now figures not only as a separate goal but as an underlying theme, governing action in all areas.

(iii) A focus on poverty in low income countries of Asia and Pacific and on Rural Poverty.

(iv) Cross-sectoral emphasis on gender issues which arc central to social development.

(v) Incorporation of a separate commitment on education and health, which are indispensable elements in the process of eradication of poverty.

(vi) A clear acknowledgement of terrorism as a fundamental threat to society and to global social order,

(vii) The provision of financial resources for the implementation of the Programme of Action through trade and international assistance,

(viii) Placing the role of markets in its proper perspective, through a recognition of its shortcomings and the need for Government intervention to both correct the market mechanism as well as to supplement it.

(ix) Acknowledging the negative effects of the Structural Adjustment Programmes and recognising the need to ensure that they include social development goals, when structural adjustment programmes are agree to.

All the above issues put forward by India were accepted by the international community at the World Summit for Social Development and have been reflected in the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action adopted